# LETTER IS TRAP FOR DA--NOVEL

T-P 5-21-67

## Statement Is Dictated to Times-Picayune

Gordon Novel has told The Times-Picayune that a letter in his handwriting linking him with the Central Intelligence Agency represents "the last trap" for District Attorney Jim Garrison.

**Novel, apparently anticipating public disclosure of the contents of the letter, Wednesday dictated a statement to The Times-Picayune to be published only after the letter was released.**

The New Orleans States-Item, in its final edition Thursday, disclosed the letter which it said it "discovered." The story also included a statement by Steven Plotkin, Novel's New Orleans lawyer, that Novel worked for the CIA here in early 1961.

The letter reportedly was found under linoleum in Novel's New Orleans apartment. In the letter, Novel allegedly tells a "Mr. Weiss" that he wants to be taken "out of this mess" by an unspecified date in March of this year.

### 'IMPORTANT WITNESS'

Garrison has called Novel an important witness in his probe of an alleged conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy. Novel left New Orleans in mid-March.

The following is the statement which Novel dictated in a call from North Carolina:

"Mr. Garrison has finally fallen into the last trap. I thought his fine Cajun gumshoes were going to miss it. Under the rug, ha, ha!

"The party is in the white paper can and will very shortly be over for him and all the witch hunters, from the governor on down.

"The letter should be checked

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against the extradition papers and statement of Marlene Mancuso. The new extradition papers now have a panel body truck wherein Mr. Garrison had tried to put Mr. Mark Lane's green Ford pickup truck puzzle piece. Didn't fit, Big Jim, did it?

"Mr. Garrison fancies himself the all powerful Samson. Samson slew the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. Mr. Garrison is trying to slay our government with his asinine jaw.

"Mr. Garrison should not ask what more he can try to do for himself, but what in God's name was he trying to do our country. I am sure Ralph Schoenman in England and Thomas Buchanan in Paris will completely tell you."

Novel's latter reference is to critics of the Warren Report who have written in opposition to the findings of the Warren Commission.

Novel, after he disappeared from New Orleans, was arrested April 1 at Gahanna, Ohio, on a warrant charging him with conspiracy to burglarize an oil service company's munitions bunkers at Houma in 1961. Since his arrest, he has been free on bond and fighting extradition from Ohio.

The latest chapter in the ex-

tified as a former girl friend of Novel's.

Plotkin, Novel's attorney here, was quoted as saying his client served as an intermediary between the CIA and anti-Castro Cubans in New Orleans and in Miami prior to the April, 1961, Bay of Pigs invasion.

Garrison charged that persons connected with the CIA became angry at President Kennedy and plotted his death in Dallas. He claims the CIA covered up the story and duped the Warren Commission.

Plotkin was quoted as saying Novel's CIA work had "little or nothing to do with the Bay of Pigs invasion and certainly had nothing to do with the assassination of President Kennedy."

Plotkin could not be reached immediately Thursday afternoon regarding Novel's statement.

The letter found in Novel's apartment contains clipped phrases, cloak and dagger terminology and references to "top secret" activities.

### LETTER QUOTED

Addressed to a Mr. Weiss, it says, in part:

"Our attorneys and others are in possession of complete sealed files containing all information concerning this matter. In the event of our sudden departure, either accidental or otherwise, they are instructed

did not know if it was ever sent.

Garrison says Plotkin and other attorneys representing figures in the case are being paid by the CIA. Plotkin has denied the charge.

A letter writing expert said the letter was written by Novel.

### FRAUD ALLEGED

Plotkin said Novel has tapes, photographs and other data which will be released shortly and will "prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that Mr. Garrison's investigation is a fraud and a hoax."

Novel told The Times-Picayune that the letter would mention a "corporation" and that Garrison would use this as a method of linking him with the CIA.

The beginning of the letter follows:

"This letter is to inform you that District (Attorney) Jim Garrison has subpenaed myself and an associate to testify before his Grand Jury on matters which may be classified TOP SECRET. Actions of individuals connected with DOUBLE-CHEK CORPORATION in Miami in the first quarter of 1961."

Double-Chek Corporation has been identified in a recent book, "The Invisible Government," as a CIA front.

The book declares that Double-Chek was the company through which pilots and other persons